Cash stolen from Delhi Police Headquarters

3248. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOMA AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than rupees fifteen lakhs were stolen from Delhi Police Headquarters locker and the amount of source money siphon-off could run into several crores;

(b) whether a CBI enquiry was held;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether Government would now make it mandatory to carry on auditing of the Intelligence unit's source money;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The investigation conducted so far has revealed that an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs from Secret Service Fund and approximately Rs. 2 lakhs kept for disbursement of pay and allowances was misappropriated by an individual official in whose custody these funds had been kept.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police have registered an FIR in this case and taken up the investigation. The accused official has been arrested and is under judicial custody.

(d) to (f) There exists a system of internal checks to ensure that the accounts of Secret Service Fund are properly maintained. The Commissioner of Police also issues a certificate at the end of the financial year to the effect that expenditure from the Fund was incurred in accordance with the prescribed objectives/ guidelines.

Amount charged for the deployment of CISF at BALCO

3249. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the amount charged from Messers Sterlite Industries for deployment of CISF at BALCO till date and the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): Consequent upon disinvestment of BALCO Ltd. w.e.f. 2.3.2000, payment of Rs. 1.57 crore (approx.) have been made by the BALCO Management against the bills for deployment cost for the period upto May, 2001 and other claims like Supervision charges, clothing charges, cost on Arms and Ammunition etc. Reimbursement of deployment cost for the periods of June and July, 2001 amounting to Rs. 43.37 lacs (approx.) are awaited from the BALCO Management.

Panchayat Elections in Pondicherry

3250. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Territory of Pondicherry has not conducted Panchayat Elections for the past 30 years; and

(b) whether Government will give any direction to conduct the Panchayat Elections to Pondicherry Government since it is a Constitutional obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pondicherry have reported that the Panchayat Elections could not be initially held as the work relating to delimitation of wards was completed by the Delimitation Commission only in 1990 and later the provisions relating to reservation of seats for Backward Classes as contained in the Village and Panchayat Act, 1973, as amended from time to time, was declared unconstitutional and unenforceable by the Chennai High Court. The Government of Pondicherry have filed a Clarificatory Application which has not so far been disposed off by the Hon'ble High Court.

(b) The Central Government had in November, 2000 advised the Government of Pondicherry to consider withdrawal of the Clarificatory Application and to hold Panchayat Elections at the earliest. This was examined by the Government of Pondicherry and it was decided that it was more appropriate to move the Hon'ble High Court for early listing of the Clarificatory Application as its withdrawal might lead to more legal complications subsequently.

Human Rights Commissions in the country

3251. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commissions have been formed by now in every State and Union Territory;